

March 21, 1955

File 1713 6

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To: [redacted], AC/TSS/APD

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From: [redacted] TSS/APD/Photo

Subject: Progress of P-156 [redacted]

DATE: 20/11/80 REVIEWER: 037109

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1. On March 17, 1955, [redacted] and I visited [redacted] to see what progress had been made relative to the Contoura Reflex Printer which is to be fitted with an electronic flash unit in such a manner that one press of a button to actuate the flash will give a good quality negative for copy purposes. The unit also will be able to function on 110-220 A. C. 50X1
2. [redacted] and I talked with [redacted] and [redacted] 50X1
3. The first step taken by [redacted] was to procure the proper type of electronic flash tube which could be properly installed in the Contoura box. As many tubes will be installed as will be essential for the even illumination of the copy and reflex paper. The exact number to be employed is not now known. 50X1
4. [redacted] now is in the process of determining the kind of light necessary for the proper reaction to the numerous reflex papers now on the market. They have tested the Contoura Reflex paper and papers manufactured by Eastman Kodak and Ansco for reflex printing purposes. They have gone somewhat into the business of ascertaining the results on several papers not commonly used for reflex printing such as Azo and Kodabromide. This last has been done very briefly. They also are going into the dilution of standard paper developers, such as Dektol, to be able to recommend the proper dilution when the package is presented to this Agency. In checking the various reflex papers, mentioned above, they have found some startling differences in color sensitivity. [redacted] and I were able to narrow down the choice of the papers to be so tested by [redacted] to several manufacturers whose products would be considered available throughout the world for use in our Agency. Some of the foreign made papers are not easily available anywhere, even in Europe, and we pointed out the fact that a number of reflex paper manufacturers have put products on the market which have not lasted for any length of time due to patent difficulties etc.. This paper testing has taken quite a bit of time, but now should be so narrowed down it can be completed without too great delay. It is, however, an important step. 50X1
5. We discussed the feasibility of keeping all of the electronic flash components within the Contoura box proper, and this did not seem impossible to [redacted] But it is realized some further study on their parts will be necessary before we can be positive this can be done. They told us they might have to extend the height of the box about one inch. This would not seem objectionable if in so doing, the box could contain all 50X1

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5. of the components necessary to make the printer function on both battery and A. C. power.
6. The completed unit is due sometime in May, 1955. [] 50X1
advised us his time was running very short and close. They did not ask us for an extension of time, but it seems as though they might well do so unless completion of this unit runs with exceptional smoothness from now on. 50X1
7. When [] and I were later alone with [] we told him directly that any requested extension of time on this project would be frowned upon by our Agency in view of numerous past requests for extensions of time. That we were of the opinion it could mean [] would not be chosen as contractor on our jobs in the future unless they could meet such deadlines as they themselves set on such work. 50X1
8. Generally, the progress on P-156 looks good. [] 50X1
will present us with a neatly-designed unit which should work to our satisfaction. They anticipate obtaining hundreds of copies from the batteries, which, if accomplished, would be an excellent feature. 50X1
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